

New Education Bill will implement Oakes report

by Peter David

An education Bill, setting up the national body for higher education in the public sector proposed in the Oakes report, will be brought before the new session of Parliament. It will be debated today.

In a brief reference to the Bill in the Queen's Speech on Wednesday, the Queen said: "Legislation will be introduced to improve the law on education in England and Wales, and to enable grants to be made in Wales towards the cost of bilingual education."

But it is expected that the Bill will include provision for setting up the Oakes machinery, as well as taking action on school government and parental choice.

There will also be measures for changing the regulations on local authority finance and the extension of mandatory awards for some higher education courses, in particular professional training courses.

Another measure on awards will enable business management courses run jointly with HE courses to become eligible for automatic grants.

The new system of education maintenance awards for 16 to 18-year-olds in schools and colleges has run into opposition in the Cabinet, and a decision will be postponed until detailed costing exercises have been completed by the Civil Service.

In what appears to be a bid to gain the support of the Conservative-controlled local authority associations, the Government intends to

keep legislation on Oakes to a minimum.

The new Bill will contain enabling powers permitting the Secretary of State to set up a national body, but the contentious issues of this body's membership and constitution will remain open.

The Bill will also provide for a change in the financial pooling arrangements necessary to implement the Oakes scheme, but the details will be open for negotiation with local authorities.

The non-prescriptive terms of legislation will enable the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and the Association of County Councils to press ahead with demands for increased representation on the national body.

They may also be given a stronger form of veto than proposed in the original report, with the requirement that all local authority members be unanimously removed.

The AMA has already agreed in principle to the main parts of the Oakes proposals, particularly the establishment of a national body and the revision of existing funding arrangements. The education committee of the ACC has passed a resolution on similar lines, and its executive council, which refused to endorse the report earlier this year, gave its support this week.

Some important differences remain between the DES and the local authorities. Besides wanting more representation on the national body, the authorities want the clause enabling individual polytechnics to transfer to national control removed.

DES action awaited as two-tier rents muddle goes on

by David Jobbins

North London is the latest polytechnic to suspend higher rents for overseas students in self-catering accommodation.

Its finance committee has agreed that home and overseas students should pay the same rent of £12 a week until the Department of Education clears up legal doubts over whether it would be against the Race Relations Act for the higher rent of £19 to be charged.

The DES has still not acted to remove the possibility of legal action over two-tier rents. The local authority associations had expected new guidance by now, but the DES says it will not publish it for three weeks before it can make a definitive ruling.

Self-catering was erroneously left out of the DES circular of August 1977, designed to remove the risk of complaints of discrimination when polytechnics and colleges charge overseas students the full economic cost of their education and accommodation.

But the mistake was not noticed until earlier this year when Liverpool Polytechnic asked for a DES ruling on the legality of charging overseas students more.

Many polytechnics have been charging higher rents—often two to three times more than home students would pay for similar accommodation. When the DES told Liverpool that pending guidance, all students should pay the same, only some polytechnics took this advice, leading to a number of anomalies.

Polytechnics who decide to charge overseas students the same as home students will not be able to recover the element of subsidy through the "pool" in the same way. Therefore the polytechnics and their local authorities are anxious that the doubt is cleared up as quickly as possible.

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Dr Kingman Brewster, the United States ambassador, giving the first of a series of annual vice-chancellor's lectures in the Great Hall at Exeter University last week

Social work students hit by Nalgo local strike call

Hundreds of social work students in universities and polytechnics are facing disruption as a result of the series of strikes called by the National and Local Government Officers' Association.

Students on courses leading to the Certificate of Qualification in Social Work have to spend up to 50 per cent of their time in field placements under the supervision of social workers. But in areas affected by the strike many social workers are refusing to supervise students.

A NALGO spokesman said this week that no special instructions had been issued about supervising students. As social workers are not at work at all, there is no way they are able to help students.

Policy guidelines for students and supervisors have, however, been drawn up by the British Association of Social Workers. It is advising students already on placement to continue to work with clients but not to take on extra clients.

Supervisors are being told to try and arrange temporary supervision for students before going on strike, to continue to supply their own supervisors during any stoppage.

Students scheduled to begin their placements before a local strike starts are facing equal difficulties. Some universities and polytechnics are postponing placements and re-organizing course structures. But

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OU honours graduates win equal pay

by Maggie Richards

A row over additional pay for OU honours graduates has been resolved. The Society of Teachers' Salaries Committee has agreed that honours graduates are entitled to the same remuneration as non-honours graduates from conventional universities.

Previously, the committee ruled that it would not acknowledge OU honours degrees unless accompanied by specific course credits in mathematics and science.

The new decision means that honours school teachers' pay in Scotland will now conform to the pattern in the rest of Britain.

Discussions about the issue began in May, after Sir Walter Pater, vice-chancellor of the OU, visited personally. He and the university's director for Scotland, Mr George Arkleson, met members of the committee for talks.

At a meeting last Friday the committee agreed to extend recognition of honours graduates to all teachers who had obtained the qualifications from the Open University, and to backdate the agreement to August. About 200 teachers are involved.

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Higher Education SUPPLEMENT

October 10, 1978 No 365

Price 22p

Opinion

The expanded "Opinion" section of THE TIMES starts this week on 25. As well as providing more space for letters and leaders and a prominent position for our regular columnists, it will contain new features.

A whimsical weekly column by Martin Taylor looking at the idiosyncrasies of higher education.

A fortnightly political column in which Bryan Davies, Labour, and John Thompson, Conservative, will debate each other.

A monthly science column. Two of three will examine British science, and the third scientific writing points in America.

A monthly column on the world of work will seek to link higher education to the world of work in the widest sense.

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Euro-Brookings threatened by international wrangles

by Peter David

Multi-million-pound proposals to bring leading economists and social scientists into a major new European research unit have been drawn up by the EEC Commission in Brussels and will be brought before the Council of Ministers before the end of the year.

Both the British Government and the Ford Foundation have been heavily involved in the scheme and there is a chance the new institute will be located in London. But the success of the venture now depends on a series of political and financial manoeuvres designed to reconcile sharp disagreements between the Commission, the Ford Foundation and the European governments about the institute's structure and location.

The Ford Foundation has been a prime mover in the scheme and encouraged European heads of government to set up a high-level planning group to discuss its establishment during the week last month.

Some observers fear that the independent policy studies institute of the type originally envisaged as a result of the Ford initiative will be transformed by the EEC into a narrow economic modelling research unit which would be tightly under the Commission's control.

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But a principal feature of the proposals—that the institute be strictly guaranteed—has now been thrown into question by an attempt to secure large-scale EEC funding for the project.

The detailed plans have been taken over from the original planning group by Mr Francois-Xavier Ortoli, the Commission's vice-president. According to his chief aide, Mr Pierre de Buisson, the "European Brookings" idea is to be merged with an older project that has been on EEC drawing boards since 1975. That was for the creation of a powerful economic research unit which would be tightly under the Commission's control.

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Oakes attacked in Commons

by Alan Woods

Mr St John-Stevens, chief Opposition spokesman on education in the Commons, in the debate on education last Friday that he viewed with a considerable amount of scepticism the proposal to set up a national coordinating body for public sector higher education. He attacked the Government's "muddled intentions and mistaken priorities" in further and higher education.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, recalled she had made clear last March that, in the Government's view, the Oakes working group's proposals taken in their entirety marked a real advance towards a solution of the problem of forward planning and financial control of higher education in the maintained sector.

She said comments received showed a broad consensus in favour of the report's main proposal for the establishment of a national framework for the planning of higher education in the maintained sector. Certainly there was no evidence from the comments received of an alternative solution to the problems of management likely to command more support from the various parties involved.

The position of the local authorities maintaining authorities would

be built upon and redefined if the proposals of the report were implemented. The Government fully appreciated the concern expressed by the local authority associations that the interests of maintaining authorities should be protected in any new systems, and the legislation that the Government was proposing would reflect this.

Mr St John-Stevens asked if the polytechnics and other public sector institutions wanted even more tiers of government with all the time-wasting, bureaucracy and inefficiency that they implied. Was it desirable to separate advanced from non-advanced further education at a time when they were trying to bring them closer together to cope more efficiently with the forthcoming bulge in the 18-plus age group?

Was there not a danger in rationalizing the whole of the higher education system with potentially disastrous results for the freedom of both institutions and students? To whom would the national body be responsible? The present pooling system had its faults, particularly in its lack of accountability, but he feared that they would be replacing a lesser evil with a greater one.

Mr Keith Haggan (Ripon, C) regretted that the new national body proposed by the Oakes

committee would not be a body like the UGC and that they were likely to be a further advanced bureaucratic embrace than they had at present and into a system which would have a frightening and inhibiting force.

Mr Gerald Foster (The Wulke, Lab) believed there was one fundamental error in the Oakes report. What existed in his own technical college in the shape of two higher national certificates designed purely to meet local needs had nothing in common with what there was in national institutions of higher education such as Hatfield Polytechnic, Middlesex Polytechnic or Manchester Polytechnic. He believed that a profound error was made in lumping together 408 institutions rather than concentrating on those 90 to 100 that were essentially concerned with higher education and not with non-advanced education.

Mr Gordon Oakes, Minister of State for Education and Science, said his committee were worried about the pooling system and the open-ended nature of it. It meant that neither the national Government nor the local authorities had a direct responsibility. He totally disagreed with the idea of a polytechnics grants committee. It would remove what democratic control there was at the moment over higher education in polytechnics.



The new Chelsea College library was opened yesterday by Lord Simon. It is Chelsea's old public library and a listed building dating from 1882. It has been redecorated and refurbished with a new bridge linking it to the college's main building.

DES extends exemption from Race Relations Act

by David Jobbins

Minister's approval has been given to fresh guidance on higher fees for overseas students in self-catering accommodation at Britain's polytechnics and other public sector colleges.

The way is now clear for the new advice to go out to the local education authorities within weeks. But it is bound to anger the National Union of Students, which has been campaigning for an end to what it sees as blatant discrimination.

For the Department of Education is simply to extend the exemption from the Race Relations Act given to higher charges for fees and all other costs to include self-catering accommodation.

The effect of the guidance will be to bring self-catering within the terms of circular 8/77, which was designed to lift the threat of legal action against authorities who charged overseas students full economic costs across the board.

DES was later forced to admit that authorities might face pressure if they did charge twice the rent. At least one polytechnic had detected the error from the outset and had never made overseas student pay more. Others followed the advice to Liverpool Polytechnic and suspended the extra cost pending a definitive ruling, while a number have continued to charge more in spite of it.

The problem for the authorities is that any residential income if home and overseas students pay the same is not "poorable". It is this which prompted the need for Government action, although it is not proving as needy as the authorities hoped.

The National Association of Student Broadcasting is making a last-minute appeal prior to legislation, against the White Paper on Broadcasting's proposals to transfer non-profit local radio and television services to Independent Broadcasting Authority. This would give the IBA control of cable radio and television services, local broadcasting and student radio.

Instead the NSAB, together with the Community Communications Group and the National Association of Hospital Broadcasting Organisations, wants the case for a Community Broadcasting Agency to be investigated by the Government.

These organisations believe that the present political climate favours the cooperative approach—one where goods and services are provided by agencies not wishing to maximise profits for shareholders but rather wishing to satisfy social needs as determined by the producers and consumers themselves.

The agency's functions would be to take responsibility for hospital and university radio services, and locally originated non-profit cable television and radio transmissions. It would issue licences for non-profit

Historians cool on N and F proposals

by Judith Judd

Historians believe that proposals for the replacement of A levels by N and F examinations are a move in the right direction but they are not enthusiastic about them.

This is revealed in a paper which shows the support of historians in at least 30 history departments in universities and university colleges. It is based on resolutions passed by a conference of representatives of history departments held at Manchester University.

In our view the inadequacies of sixth form education are not the curriculum and examination system, but we are not convinced

that N and F necessarily offers the best solution to the problem raised or that a wholesale restructuring is necessary.

The historians say they would expect entrants to university departments to have studied history to F level. Under the proposals sixth formers would be able to take up to five N and F levels. A normal combination for those staying two years in the sixth would be three N levels (equalling half an A level each) and two F levels (each equalling about three-quarters of an A level).

The historians believe that candidates who had taken history to N level would be acceptable provided that they had studied another sub-

ject to F level and if the syllabus at N level equipped students with basic skills.

"Attitudes towards an N level pass are likely to vary according to the grade attained, the spread of grades in other N and F subjects and perhaps performance at interview: we would wish to maintain flexibility in admissions."

The paper opposes a university entrance requirement based on N level alone since it does not regard such study as a proper preparation for university work. It proposes a general entrance requirement of passes in five subjects in the 18-plus examinations, with at least one of them to be at F level. "Some separate arrangements for mature

candidate, and for special cases will be necessary."

"We have a strong wish to see the breadth of sixth form study which the N and F scheme is designed to encourage, but we do not believe that this will be achieved unless there is a grouping of subjects perhaps imposed by the Department of Education and Science or Schools Council."

The universities should have a general entrance requirement which should demand a pass at 18 plus in a foreign language and in mathematics or a science. Finally, the historians believe that the N and F proposals could not be introduced with existing resources without more books, staff and in-service training.

Cambridge rift over who chooses staff

by Ngalo Crequer

Cambridge colleges are too poor to call their proper role as the sole employers of academic staff, according to an article in the latest issue of *The Cambridge Review*.

The unsigned article argues that colleges originally sprung up as a means of providing funds and doing for impoverished students at only gradually took over the role of teaching and the responsibility for the employment of staff. It rebuts the view that the faculties have recently usurped the role of the colleges and says that it is not the case that their rise as paymasters "represents a dangerous and progressive against the traditional position of the colleges".

It says the questions as to whether the faculties or the colleges are to choose the staff and what that character is likely to be.

The point is made that a college is not a society that a faculty of the university. A college is not only a society of professional scholars but of people living together in the same building.

In short, colleges, as opposed to faculties, are thoroughly civic and provide institutions, bulwarks of modernity against inter-collegial communication, situations and generation-gap type contexts."

The article says that colleges are likely to bear in mind criteria often forgotten by faculties when choosing teaching staff. They ask not only if someone is clever and pious but also whether they would be a suitable member of a learned community.

If the university at large is to be more than a collection of research institutions, the article says the colleges rather than the faculties should be endowed with the power of appointment.

Retired need more education NATFHE says

Retirement should provide new opportunities, but too often it threatens decay and inexorable decline, says the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.

It believes that while the Government devotion of resources to the social and health needs of the elderly, it has so far given little attention to the way education can help.

"An extensive range of educational and recreational facilities is essential for both mental and physical health," the union says in a response to a Department of Health consultation document entitled "A Happier Old Age".

NATFHE says the education service can make a highly worthwhile contribution to most old people's quality of life—if it is given a chance. This includes old people in hospitals and residential homes. In particular:

1. A person appointed in each locality with responsibilities to the elderly similar to those of a youth officer to young people.

2. Adequate provision of pre-retirement courses from the age of 50 and including spouses.

3. More day time centres for old people within the existing further education framework.

4. The pressure to make sure time and facilities are available to employees wanting to take advantage of pre-retirement courses.

5. Fewer than 5 per cent of the 1,500 people who retire every day will have attended any pre-retirement course, NATFHE says.

With the changing age structure of the population, and as the elderly will have increasingly benefited from higher educational standards earlier in their lives, NATFHE considers the educational service will have an even more important role to play in a new and potentially challenging phase of any individual's life.

£11m 'thaw' may lead to increase in staffing

A "modest" thaw after four years of financial freeze in the inner London Education Authority may enable the five ILEA polytechnics to boost their teaching staff numbers next year.

Sir Ashley Bramall, leader of the authority, said last week that a 10 per cent rate of growth in real terms would be introduced in 1979-80. A variety of economies, combined with savings in the current year, will produce an extra £11m.

Higher education's share will include the appointment of 30 new lecturers to the authority's polytechnics and colleges doing advanced level work. Sir Ashley said the higher education institutions had increased the number of students without spending more money or augmenting non-teaching staff.

The new staff would help correct imbalances in the distribution of teaching courses among subjects. There were plenty of lecturers in science and engineering courses but a staff was not high, he said.

The authority will continue to provide special in-service training for mathematics and English teachers.

DES sends out views on the microprocessing age

The Department of Education has set out its plans for dragging British education into the microprocessor age. It has written to local authorities and teacher associations, industry, unions and other education bodies, indicating the educational implications of micro-electronic technology.

The letter says it is recognized that education should aim not only at giving young people a wide range of basic skills, but also improving their ability to adapt to change.

The DES has committed itself to a continuing study of the implications in partnership with all interested parties in a search for effective measures to developments. A national awareness programme for schools and colleges to make best use of the new opportunities of the technology is being considered, the DES says.

So is the possibility of developing certain higher education institutions' micro-electronics capability to fit them for a role as centres for advanced teaching, consultancy, training and research. A third avenue being looked at is the potential for teaching the disabled.



Chris Hallam as Ken Fielding and Peter Acro as Peter Fielding in *The Free Fall* by Colin Mortimer, which will be presented by the Foco Novo Theatre Company at Aston University Centre for the Arts from November 23. *The Free Fall* is about the dividing line between belief and obsession. The play tells the story of Nina who is drawn into an extreme Christian group while on holiday on the Continent.

Aston to lose chancellor and vice-chancellor at same time

by Ngalo Crequer

Dr Joseph Pope, vice-chancellor of Aston University since 1969, is to retire at the end of the academic year. Lord Nelson of Stafford, the chancellor, also said this week that he wants to relinquish his duties as soon as a successor can be found.

Dr Pope, who is 64, was director of research and technical director of Mirreless Ltd, part of the Hawker Siddeley Group, before he became vice-chancellor. From 1949 to 1960 he was professor of civil and mechanical engineering at Nottingham University.

At Nottingham he designed and developed specialized laboratory equipment for use in engineering. The equipment was subsequently manufactured by Torrington Ltd, Nottingham, which Dr and Mrs Pope co-founded. Both will work together at Torrington on Dr Pope's retirement.

Dr Pope is chairman of the West Midlands Economic Planning Council, chairman of the Birmingham Civic Society, President of the Whitworth Society and general treasurer of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

He said this week: "Now that the basis of the University of Aston has been firmly established, I think this is an appropriate time for a change of vice-chancellor. Due to the energies and cooperation of all



Dr Pope: to work with wife

concerned, the university's achievements over the past nine years have been notable. It has made significant contributions to the local community and, through its technological, scientific and managerial services to industry, the national economy has benefited considerably.

Lord Nelson became the first chancellor of Aston on the university's foundation in 1966. He is president of the Sino-British Trade Council and chairman of the General Electric Company Ltd.

Anti-fascist students find unanimity

by John O'Leary

Student anti-fascist campaigners endorsed their national union's controversial "platform" policy at their first annual conference. The broadly based Students' Union Against the Nazis emerged united with a four-point plan of action for the year.

Top priority is "Ensuring that wherever the Nazis, like the National Front, British National Party, British Movement, or Column 88, attempt to organize in our colleges there is effective activity to ensure that they are given no facilities and no platform to air their views."

Other activities will centre around the general election, when an intensive campaign will be launched in the colleges and outside. In addition, SCAN is committed to continuing work in local communities and to taking up the issue of racism in education, giving particular attention to the position of overseas students.

Some 250 delegates attended the conference in London, electing a new steering committee, which will meet last night to decide on a concrete plan for a campaign. The previous chairman was Mr Gavin Grant, a Liberal member of the NUS executive.

SCAN was formed at the beginning of the summer, bringing together a wide spectrum of political and religious groups. The success of the conference in producing an agreed programme of action has quelled fears that the alliance would not survive a rigorous debate of the means to the parties' common end. So far, only the Federation of Conservative Students has left the campaign, which embraces revolutionary socialists and Jewish students, among others.

More than 100 Scottish students attended a weekend conference on racism held at Dundee University.

Community broadcasting stand

by Patricia Santinelli

The National Association of Student Broadcasting is making a last-minute appeal prior to legislation, against the White Paper on Broadcasting's proposals to transfer non-profit local radio and television services to Independent Broadcasting Authority. This would give the IBA control of cable radio and television services, local broadcasting and student radio.

Instead the NSAB, together with the Community Communications Group and the National Association of Hospital Broadcasting Organisations, wants the case for a Community Broadcasting Agency to be investigated by the Government.

These organisations believe that the present political climate favours the cooperative approach—one where goods and services are provided by agencies not wishing to maximise profits for shareholders but rather wishing to satisfy social needs as determined by the producers and consumers themselves.

The agency's functions would be to take responsibility for hospital and university radio services, and locally originated non-profit cable television and radio transmissions. It would issue licences for non-profit

DES extends exemption from Race Relations Act

by David Jobbins

Minister's approval has been given to fresh guidance on higher fees for overseas students in self-catering accommodation at Britain's polytechnics and other public sector colleges.

The way is now clear for the new advice to go out to the local education authorities within weeks. But it is bound to anger the National Union of Students, which has been campaigning for an end to what it sees as blatant discrimination.

For the Department of Education is simply to extend the exemption from the Race Relations Act given to higher charges for fees and all other costs to include self-catering accommodation.

The effect of the guidance will be to bring self-catering within the terms of circular 8/77, which was designed to lift the threat of legal action against authorities who charged overseas students full economic costs across the board.

DES was later forced to admit that authorities might face pressure if they did charge twice the rent. At least one polytechnic had detected the error from the outset and had never made overseas student pay more. Others followed the advice to Liverpool Polytechnic and suspended the extra cost pending a definitive ruling, while a number have continued to charge more in spite of it.

The problem for the authorities is that any residential income if home and overseas students pay the same is not "poorable". It is this which prompted the need for Government action, although it is not proving as needy as the authorities hoped.

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Political Studies Association Social Science Research Council POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE IN POLITICS

The P.S.A. and S.S.R.C. are jointly sponsoring a conference at the London School of Economics, December 14-16, 1978, for first year research students. Applications from other graduate students in politics will be welcomed. Costs £18.00 with accommodation, £11.00 without. Travel reimbursable for S.S.R.C. research students. Speakers include James Barber, Rodney Barker, Hugh Berrington, Hedy Bull, Ivor Crewe, Henry Drucker, Iain Hampsher Monck and James Manor.

Discussion groups are expected to cover practical research problems including survey and interview techniques, access to data sources. Further details and application forms from Peter Dawson, L.S.E., London WC2A 2AE.

Overseas applications up 20 per cent

Applications from overseas candidates for entry to British universities for 1979 were up by nearly 20 per cent this October, compared with the same time last year.

But the Universities Central Council on Admissions, which has the statistics, points out that they may simply be a result of a drop in applying and that final totals may not necessarily show an increase.

The figures also show a small increase in the number of women candidates. By October 15, this

year 11,930 women had applied for October, 1978, an increase of 4.6 per cent. The figures for men show a fall of 3.6 per cent.

There is only a small change in overall numbers, both men and women. By October this year 29,922 people had applied, compared with 30,073 last year, a decrease of 0.5 per cent.

The figures show a 49 per cent increase in applications for computer science, 38 per cent in education, 35 per cent in engineering combined with other subjects, 16 per cent in

accountancy and 10 per cent in general engineering.

There have been substantial decreases in applications for places to study combined arts and sciences, 15 per cent, combined social studies, 12 per cent, geography 12 per cent, and medicine 6 per cent.

But as UCCA points out, only about a fifth of the expected total number of candidates has so far applied, so the trends are provisional, although the increase in the proportion of women which has occurred in recent years looks like continuing.

Polytechnic director 'has had enough'

by David Jobbins

The 55-year-old director of Birmingham Polytechnic, Mr Stuart Smethurst, is retiring early. "I am tired, I have had enough," said Mr Smethurst, who has been at Birmingham for nearly nine years.

"I think that is long enough to be director of this kind of institution."

He has held the director's job longer than any in his career. "I simply do not enjoy it as much as I used to." A job held for so long became mechanical, and lost inspiration and creativity. "The more difficult and complicated a job is, the more rapidly you reach that stage."

Mr Smethurst told the governing council that a changing administrative framework, together with a general economic and possible population decline, made a reassessment of the polytechnic's future necessary. "I am sure for this to be done most effectively a fresh man is needed to lead."

Birmingham has constantly had problems resulting from scarce resources and was called "the worst polytechnic in the country" by its students a few years ago. Student Union president Mr Barry Dore said facilities were still "grossly inadequate".

But informed sources are confident that Mr Smethurst's premature retirement is not related to the contents of the report on the Council for National Academic Awards' quinquennial visit, which is due to be presented to the council's December meeting.

A reorganization is going on at Birmingham, with 23 departments being brought together into six faculties, a move Mr Smethurst declares himself in complete agreement with.

Someone who heard Mr Smethurst outline his reasons for the polytechnic's governing council said: "His motivation is that with the poly changing its academic structure, he does not want to be involved over the next four or five years."

Mr Smethurst's successor in the £15,591 job is already being sought.

Sacking decision confirmed

A decision to sack a head of department at the Isle of Wight College despite a recommendation that he should keep his job has been confirmed by Cambridgeshire education authority.

A panel of three headed by the chairman of the authority's "study and special purposes" sub-committee, Mrs Jane Brookes, decided on Monday that Mr Bob Winder, who ran the building and engineering department at the college in Wichester, should be dismissed with immediate effect.

He was originally cleared of seven out of 12 charges arising from how he ran his department.

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Thumbs down for 'PCCA'

by Sandra Hempel

Polytechnics are not to get a UCCA type admissions system and the present procedure is to continue at least for the next two years. This was decided at a meeting in Oxford last week which reviewed the admission procedures and looked at ways of improving them.

The meeting was called by the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics and attended by representatives from teaching unions and organizations, local authorities and the Department of Education and Science.

The process of admission to higher education should be regarded as an integral part of the students' development. Dr. William Birch, Director of Bristol Polytechnic, said: "We must ensure that when a student enters higher education he does not feel that the process of admission has come to an end. People's sense of objective often changes dramatically during their first year. Their ability to review their decision should be recognized and they should be helped. The

pre-entry interview and counselling during the student's first year have a tremendous part to play." Emphasizing that it would be wrong to look automatically for more simple procedures, Dr. Birch said the admissions process was not necessarily complex and could not be got over in a hurry—polytechnics were very comprehensive in what they offered: degree and non-degree, full-time and part-time courses in a wide range of subjects, and they took students with vastly different backgrounds and needs.

His own polytechnic at Bristol, for example, had 9,000 students, 4,500 of them full-time, and offered 200 courses from 20 departments.

A central application procedure for polytechnics could slow the admissions process down, said Dr. David Smith, senior tutor at Gateway Sixth Form College, Leicester. "A high proportion of entries to polytechnics from schools are late applications," said Mr. Smith. "We find that the individual entries at that late stage are handled very rapidly. A central system would be so efficient and would involve schools

in a lot of extra work early in the year when we are busy with the next year's students." Dr. George Tolley, principal of Sheffield Polytechnic, said the UCCA system was a streamlined and done a lot to focus the minds of pupils and staff on the possibilities of universities, but it was school-based. It would be difficult to assemble a system for polytechnics which was as neat and tidy as UCCA, he said.

After hearing the discussion, representatives from the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, the Association of County Councils, the Council of Local Education Authorities and the Department of Education and Science said they believed no case had been made for setting up a central clearing-house system. The present system should continue for the time being but could be reviewed again in two or three years, they said.

The next contribution to the debate on polytechnic admissions was expected next year when the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics publishes the result of its third survey.

EEC cash boost for Northern Ireland training schemes

by Patricia Santinelli

Young people in the United Kingdom are to receive the lion's share of the first 1978 instalment from the European Social Fund to support vocational training activities in EEC member states. Out of a total allocation of £16.5m, £6.5m is to be spent on training.

Most of the EEC training cash is to go to Northern Ireland for three programmes. The largest amount of £3,719,202 is to be awarded for training sponsored apprentices aged under 18 at Government training centres.

Another £220,000 is to be allocated to the training of 400 young people under the attachment training scheme, and nearly £25,000 to support basic training in motor mechanics of 60 young people. The rest of the grant for training young people amounts to £2.5m.

Three other categories are also to receive substantial funding: the handicapped, unemployed workers in the regions and the retraining of workers in agriculture and the textiles industry. This amounts to a total of 14.5m European Units of Account.

Italy, Ireland and West Germany are higher in the league than the United Kingdom in terms of EEC financial support. Italy, for example, receives £1.99m EUA.

Our education system and hence our society do not understand or teach the prime role of the manufacturing industry as a wealth creating sector of the country, Mr. Alox Jarratt, chairman of Reed International Ltd, warned last week.

Mr. Jarratt was introducing a set of new career packets and an audio-visual package developed through unusual cooperation by the Paper and Paper Products Industry Training Board, the Careers and Occupational Information Centre and the Manpower Services Commission. They are to be distributed to schools and colleges in the next months.

He added that the development, indeed the survival, of the paper and board industry depended on an adequate flow of young people, with both the right educational qualifications and the right personal qualities.

In no sense do we write off people who don't happen to have passed certain exams. In spite of high unemployment and sales among young people we are still finding it difficult to attract into

our business young people of good calibre," he said. "We are short of paper making and engineering apprentices, laboratory technicians and designers and machine minders, for example."

The material has been specially designed not only to explain to young people what the paper and board industry does and the opportunities it offers—it employs 200,000 people in 4,500 locations—but also to eradicate a mistaken image caused by the lack of recognition given to employees in this kind of field.

The setting up of a chair of training at a British university of equivalent centre of higher education should be investigated as a priority, the Manpower Services Commission Training of Trainers Committee recommended in its first report published last week.

The committee was set up in 1976 to consider questions such as who are the trainers, what are their roles, what do they do, how should they be trained and what abilities should they have.

The TTC believes that a chair and any unit associated with it could play a major role in defining training as a subject which can legitimately be taught at that level. It would be primarily concerned with training within public and private sector organizations and would be expected to be in the forefront of research in training, not as a consultancy body and mount advanced programmes of all kinds.

The committee strongly recommends that introductory training officer courses should be dropped and replaced by core-competency programmes to be run either by colleges of further education building on their introductory courses, or by industrial training boards and other bodies.

But it has rejected the idea of a nationally recognized qualification for trainers on the grounds that it is neither currently feasible or desirable to establish a common national scheme of individual accreditation.

The committee is however strongly in favour of setting up a National Advisory Group under the aegis of the MSC to oversee and coordinate the continued development of the training of trainers. This body is to remain small but will draw on the advice and support of a large number of sectors such as the Government, educational bodies, the TBS and employers.

Lecturers unite on expansion

Lecturers in the universities and the public sector joined this week to a united call for a Government commitment to expand higher education opportunities.

In a joint statement, the Association of University Teachers and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education totally rejected temporary expedients to meet expansion over the next few years.

Looking into the period covered by the Government—discussion document, *Higher Education into*

the 1990s, they seek an immediate pledge of resources for the development of higher education along the Model E plan.

This envisages the development of higher education opportunities for many groups who have up to now been denied them.

Both unions say Model E comes closest to what is essential if higher education is to maintain its Robbins principle of access.

The initiative by the two unions follows a resolution adopted by the Trades Union Congress this year,

Research team to study TV series on family problems

by Ngalo Cregner

A team of Aston University researchers is to study public reaction to a new BBC television audience-participation series on family problems.

Professor Richard Whitfield, of the department of educational studies at Aston, is to direct the intensive two-year study in the production and desired effects of the programmes and will monitor their impact on the target audience.

Ten programmes will be screened next spring and another 15 will follow the following autumn. The series is part of the BBC's long-term commitment to family education and is aimed at assisting families which, for instance, include those with schooling difficulties or with experience of significant conflict within the home. The programmes are for families with problems rather than "problem families".

The programmes will include filmed material and there will be phone-in and write-in opportunities as well as back-up printed material. The programmes are aimed at six age groups.

Professor Whitfield said: "We will study the production decisions made by the BBC so that we will be able to look at their objectives. We will also be looking at the crude effects and evaluating the effectiveness and use of the services which will be linked to the problem-solving."

The researchers have been involved with discussion with the BBC on the content of the programmes. The series is as yet unnamed.

A research grant of almost £40,000 has been awarded to the Aston project by the Health Education Council, which will also enable the evaluation team to study the working of Family Advice Centres, set up with the help of the National Children's Home.

The Council's social services department has been appointed senior fellow within the Department of Educational Enquiry to co-direct the project with effect from January 1979.

£600,000 building for urban studies

A contract has been signed for a new £600,000 building at Bristol University's School for Advanced Urban Studies. It will double the number of study-bedrooms and provide a new library and more research, lecture and seminar facilities.

The buildings will enable the school to expand its teaching and research centre in the field of public policy studies and to offer additional courses and carry out more research. The extra 30 study-bedrooms, making 60 overall, will make it attractive as a conference centre.

The school was set up jointly by Bristol University and central government in 1973 as a post-experience teaching and research centre in urban policy.

North American News

Campus targets for Koreans revealed

from Clive Cookson

WASHINGTON

American academics and universities were a key target in South Korea's secret plans to buy power and influence in the United States during the early and mid-1970s.

That is the conclusion of a House of Representatives subcommittee which has spent the past 18 months investigating the astonishingly daring attempts to President Park Chung Hee's regime to gain influence in the United States which was as neat and tidy as UCCA, he said.

Thirty-four pages of the subcommittee's 447-page report are devoted to detailed case studies of the measures taken to improve its image in the American academic community.

The report makes it clear that the plan failed in academe, as it failed in politics, business and the media. "We don't think the effort had any material effect on United States policy," said Representative William Fraser, the subcommittee chairman. "We think they wasted their money."

In the academic field, the effort to win "financial donations to American academic institutions, and to exert use of research institutes and academic conferences, and approaches to individual scholars, sometimes involving harassment and intimidation," according to the report.

Between 1972 and 1978 Korean scores made more than \$2.4m available to American universities. Most of the money was offered as grant support for Korean studies in the United States.

The report says: "Grants tended to be given to a donor for an ongoing scholarship on Korea, long treated as an adjunct to the study of China and Japan. At the same time, the Government felt it might counterbalance or mute academic criticism."

Some of the donations came from the Korean Ministry of Education (including \$575,000 to build a centre for Korean studies at the University of Hawaii, and \$70,000 to support Korean studies at Western Michigan University). Sometimes President Park

ordered Korean businessmen to make the gifts (including a \$1m endowed chair at Harvard University in "modern Korean economy and society"), and \$250,000 for a Korean library study centre at Columbia University.

"The subcommittee concluded that the Korean Government attempted to use grants to influence American universities for political purposes," its report says. "It found no evidence that the universities accepted grants with conditions limiting academic freedom."

Nevertheless, the acceptance of Korean grants by American universities may indicate a measure of success by the Korean Government in attempting to improve its image in the United States. Donating substantial sums of money to prestigious institutions lends them a certain amount of recognition and acceptance of the grants could be taken to imply approval of the Korean Government. Further, there is an inherent danger that the recipient may feel constrained from criticizing the Government or following politically sensitive topics or individuals to be involved in programmes funded by the grant.

In addition to making grants to universities, South Korea tried to use individual scholars, academic conferences and research institutes to influence public opinion. In this, the subcommittee—which had an investigative and research staff of 20—discovered.

"This took the form of covert as well as overt funding, offers of trips to Korea, and research funds for American scholars and participation in academic conferences by scholars sympathetic to the government. The Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) played a large role in these efforts."

The KCIA set up a Research Institute on Korean Affairs which sponsored academic conferences and published on academic journals and scholarly works on Korea, until it closed down last year. "The inquiry revealed that a large-scale laundering operation had been initiated in 1971, continuing through 1976, to disburse funds for funding," according to the report.

South Korea sponsored at least



President Park.

two other academic conferences, "according to KCIA plans, such conferences were to be used to influence the American academic community by presenting Korea in a favourable light and drawing attention to its security concerns, on another occasion the KCIA attempted to influence an academic conference by trying to secure participation by a pro-Government Korean-American professor."

Many scholars, including supporters and opponents of the Park regime, were given Korean Government grants for research or travel to Korea, in an attempt to win their sympathies. But the report says the subcommittee does not intend to imply that any scholar was improperly influenced. Rather, it looked at the phenomenon as an example of an ongoing, systematic effort by the Korean Government to improve its image in the academic world.

The report's section on the academic community concludes by recommending congress to "consider special provisions for financial support of Korean studies in the United States, perhaps by establishing a Korean-American Studies

friendship commission." For the subcommittee decided that Korean studies are an undervalued and neglected academic field, and "this investigation has shown the pressing need for action in attempting to compensate for the lack of funds by accepting grants from the Korean Government or private institutions in Korea."

Deal clinches opening of exchanges with China

WASHINGTON

China and the United States will begin their official exchange of students and researchers at the beginning of 1979, according to an agreement concluded here by the National Science Foundation (on behalf of the United States Government) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

University president Hou Fei-Yun said the current 1978-79 academic year China hopes to send 100 to 300 and 700 scholars and students to universities in the United States. In return the United States Government will pay for about 60 American students to study in China, and an unspecified number will be able to make their own arrangements to go.

NSF director Richard Aikinson said the two sides were now working to "lay the groundwork for an expanded programme in future years."

The Chinese side is interested primarily in scientific and technical fields, including physical and biomedical sciences, engineering, and selected areas of applied technology, the NSF said. The first batch of Chinese students is expected to consist mainly of senior scholars seeking advanced training. Few will be enrolling in degree courses, either at the undergraduate or postgraduate level.

Most of the American scholars going to China will probably be working in the social sciences and humanities, especially language and literature, history, archaeology and biology. They will be joined by a few scientists who are likely to be particularly interested in Chinese agriculture, medicine and technique forecasting.

The Committee of Scholarly Exchange with the People's Re-

public of China, part of the National Academy of Sciences, is conducting the selection and placement of American students and scholars who want to study in China.

China is using its Washington liaison office (it still has no formal diplomatic relations with the United States) to decide which American colleges and universities should receive its students.

The Chinese scholars are expected to live in ordinary student accommodation at their host universities, and no special efforts will be made to give them their own separate housing. Their government will pay all their expenses, although, according to the China correspondent of the *Washington Post*, Chinese officials "appear to have been stunned by the tuition charges at schools like MIT, Cal Tech and Harvard, where they think their students can learn the most."

The NSF said the groundwork for the exchange was laid last July when President Carter's science adviser, Frank Press, led an American team for talks in Peking. However, several other leading figures in American science and education have visited China in the past year or two, to foster the rapidly growing relationship between the two nations. For example, Mary Berry, the Assistant Secretary for Education, had a nine day tour there last year, and Clark Kerr, Chairman of the Carnegie Council on Policy Studies in Higher Education, took over a group of leading Americans earlier this year.

Although the official US-China exchange programme will not start until January, a few students from the People's Republic have been studying here since October under private arrangements.

New rules on college aid

The Government has proposed new regulations to tighten up the so-called "Programme for Strengthening Developing Institutions" under which the Department of Health Education and Welfare (HEW) distributes \$120m a year to poor colleges serving large numbers of minority or low income students.

Under the proposed rules, priority for grants will go to 1978-83 developing institutions under which their management capabilities, and which will genuinely use the money to strengthen their academic programmes and achieve long-term stability. HEW secretary Joseph Califano stirred up a lot of worry in the black educational community earlier this year when he said he was reviewing the programme because many struggling colleges were using the money to stave off bankruptcy (*THESE*, July 14).

Announcing the new rules last week, Mr. Califano said: "Federal assistance should help foster independence, not dependence."

The HEW secretary said the tighter criteria for assistance reflected the increasing competition for limited funds. In 1978-83 developing institutions requested aid totalling \$300m—only \$120m was available.

Public hearings on the proposed changes to the programme for strengthening developing institutions will be held round the country over the next two months.

Clive Cookson, North American Correspondent, *The Times Higher Education Supplement*, National Press Building, Room 501, Washington DC 20045, Telephone: (202) 638 6765.

KELVIN GROVE COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education is an autonomous College of Advanced Education specialising in the preparation of teachers in the fields of pre-school, primary and secondary education. It also provides a variety of tertiary courses for teachers together with a number of non-teacher education courses.

Applications are invited for the position of:

Lecturer in Mathematics

(Computer Mathematics/Education) Ref. 78/A/23
Applications are invited from persons who are able to take a leadership role in the development and teaching of computer mathematics and computer education courses in the Mathematics Department. The person appointed would also be expected to make contributions to other mathematics courses in the Department. Individual applying for the position should have the following professional requirements:

(1) An advanced degree with major studies in mathematics and computer education. (2) Post-graduate studies in computer science is an advantage. (3) Experience with computer assisted instruction. (4) Experience in teaching and planning educational programmes. (5) Experience in teaching appropriate courses at the tertiary level is desirable.

It is desirable that the successful applicant assume duties as soon as possible after 1st February, 1979.

Salary and Conditions of Service:

Lecturer II, \$15,179-\$17,357 per annum; Lecturer I, \$17,764-\$19,940 per annum.

Conditions of service are comparable to those in universities and colleges of advanced education throughout Australia. Appointments will be made at a level appropriate to the qualifications and experience of the applicant.

Application forms and additional information are available from the Official Secretary, Agent General for Queensland, 392-393 Strand, London WC2R 0LZ, to whom applications close on 1st December 1978.

AUSTRALIA

PRINCIPAL

The Foundation Principal, Dr J. H. Flak, is to retire early in 1980 and the Council of the college wishes to appoint his successor so that, if possible, he/she can take up duty in January/February 1980.

Nepean is a multi-disciplinary, multi-campus college serving the needs of the growing western area of Sydney and the adjacent Blue Mountains. The college has a steady growth in recent years and this is expected to continue. In 1979 the college expects to have approximately 1,400 students in three schools—Teacher Education, Business and The Arts—with courses ranging from Associate Diploma to Post-Graduate level, and about 150 academic and administrative staff.

The Principal is the chief academic and administrative officer of the college and is responsible to the governing Council of the college for providing the interests and furthering the development of the college. In particular, he is responsible for the academic, administrative, financial and other business of the college and exercises a general supervision over the servants of the college and the welfare of the students. In these duties he is assisted by the Deans of the schools and the College Secretary.

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants should possess high academic attainments and have proven administrative experience at a senior level in a tertiary institution. SALARY: \$43,739 p.a. plus \$4600 expense allowance. Conditions of service include sick leave, recreation leave, long service leave and superannuation. The college will provide assistance for travel, removal and, if necessary, initial accommodation expenses, and a staff home purchase scheme is available.

Applications, marked "Confidential", and including the names and addresses of three referees, should reach the Chairman of Council, Nepean College of Advanced Education, PO Box 60, Kingswood, New South Wales, 2750, Australia, by January 15, 1979. For further information please write to the Chairman at the above address.

The college reserves the right to make no appointment or to appoint by invitation.

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Overseas News

Fears grow over campus workers' pay

from Lindsay Wright

WELLINGTON
Fears are mounting among leading university spokesmen in New Zealand, that the State Services Commission, the official employer of all state servants, may be mounting a campaign for increased involvement in setting salaries for non-academic staff in the universities.

The threat was not even guarded. A commission spokesman, Mr. D. J. Swallow, warned a meeting convened by the University Grants Committee that if university non-academic staff appeared likely to obtain salary increases of which the commission disapproved, the Minister of State Services would use his powers under the State Services Remuneration and Conditions of Employment Act 1977, and bring negotiations to a halt by deeming all non-academic staff to be state servants.

The meeting was organized in an attempt to discuss the procedures for setting salaries for senior university librarians, a group traditionally represented by the Association of University Teachers.

Both the AUT and the university vice-chancellors at the meeting favoured UGC involvement in setting librarians' salaries, but their differences with the commission

highlighted problems that are mounting in the university system. Two years ago university technicians successfully gained recognition of their national association as an industrial union under the Industrial Relations Act, placing their salary negotiation mechanisms firmly within the machinery of the private sector. For the first time, the universities, through the Vice-Chancellors' Committee, had to respond collectively as a body to represent the employers in negotiating a national agreement.

Unaccustomed to direct bargaining with their employees, and anticipating that the union was unlikely to become militant, some university representatives expected to devise a loose agreement as a result of friendly discussions. Agreement has not yet been reached, however, and the universities have yet to be convinced of the need to adjust their perceptions to accept the inevitability of hard bargaining and active unionisation.

Under New Zealand industrial law the universities are clearly in the private sector of industry rather than the public sector, even though all salaries are provided by the state. University and public service salaries are linked in many ways, but notably through the

regular application to university salaries of all salary increases applied across the board to state employees. This link recently prompted the Victoria University branch of the Association of University Non-academic Staff (AUNAS) to break rank with other university branches and seek membership of the Public Service Association. Their application was unsuccessful and, together with other branches, they must now decide whether to attempt to gain recognition of AUNAS as a negotiating body or to give support to the Clerical Employees Association which already represents university clerical and administrative staff on salaries below \$N23,000 a year.

Basically, however, the large group of intermediate and senior administrative staff, and the less senior library staff remain completely unrepresented in any negotiations on salaries and conditions of service in the universities. AUNAS faces further problems because of the unwillingness of some groups of staff, particularly librarians, to give the association any support.

The central problem is then, mounting awareness on the part of large numbers of non-academic staff that they are unrepresented, have no established authority with which to negotiate, and are unsure of how

to achieve recognition.

Within this vacuum the Clerical Employees Association have lodged a dispute with the universities which, if prosecuted, must be resolved by legal arbitration, and which claims the right to represent all administrative staff up to deputy registrar level.

This move is being resisted by both the universities and staff, but if the alternative is to be drafted by Government as public servants, both university groups may yet decide that the private sector union, even if not ideal, is a better protection for the traditional separation of university and state.

At least one major question remains completely unanswered. Should the universities, collectively negotiating with a private sector union, accede to Union requests for higher salaries, would the University Grants Committee be able successfully to persuade Government to make the grant supplementation necessary to pay these increases?

In all of these uncertainties at the moment, neither the universities nor the employees showed any signs of knowing where they wish to go. Under its new chairman, Dr. Alan Johns, the UGC may yet find itself forced to provide firm leadership to make good its interests in university salaries are not usurped by the commission.

New row on job checks

from Gunther Klöss

BONN
The practice of screening applicants for employment in West Germany's public service has moved back into the centre of political controversy. Prominent members of the Social Democratic Party (SPD)—whose former Federal Chancellor and current chairman, Willy Brandt, formalised in 1972, together with the prime ministers of the Länder the criteria and procedures forming the basis for these investigations—has had to retract his support for the practice, termed "extremist decree" (TUE, May 26).

The head of the SPD-led Hamburg government, Herr Klöss, was the first leading politician to put forward a "six-point programme" to revise the agreement. This was meant to be a contribution to the discussions inside the party, but he made it clear that Hamburg was determined to go ahead with implementing these plans even if they were rejected elsewhere. This is significant since Hamburg was the first Länder to tighten up its screening procedures even before the 1972 agreement.

Currently, some 12,000 applicants for not more than 2,000 vacancies are screened annually.

The essence of Herr Klöss's new principles is that from now on each applicant is presumed to be loyal to the constitution. The Office for the Protection of the Constitution will not be consulted as a matter of routine in every single case, and no investigation will be carried out unless the applicant is suspected of being a security risk in the police force, the judicial administration and the prison service.

Only the actual behaviour of an employee while on duty will in future be considered, and evidence relating to his or her past political activities—say, as a student several years ago—will no longer be admissible. The mere membership of a left wing party will no longer be a reason for non-employment or dismissal, provided the applicant does not actually indulge in any unconstitutional activities while carrying out his duties.

But if, for example, he actively indoctrinates his students or pupils with communist propaganda, or advocates the use of force to achieve political ends, then normal civil service disciplinary measures will be invoked.

It reveals a lot about the current political climate in West Germany that Herr Klöss's proposals were greeted as a "bold move" by the press and criticized by an Opposition spokesman as an expression of the SPD's neo-Soviet policies leading to a further violation of the constitution.

The proposals certainly enlivened the political debate in the Federal Republic, especially since they were made public just before the election of the Hessian regional parliament.

A committee of the Federal SPD Party, chaired by its deputy leader, Herr Koschnik, published a few days later "nine basic principles" to determine the constitutional loyalty in the public services. These principles, which are said to be supported by all SPD Länder prime ministers, are likely to be approved by the party executive in December, and will come into force early next year.

Herr Koschnik's proposals too, dispense with routine checks before employment. They allow anyone to be a member, as long as it is not for an applicant's benefit. During his period of employment, however, the Koschnik committee also wants to consider his behaviour outside the office, and favours a somewhat stricter interpretation of unconstitutional activities. This would also include political statements.

The chairman of the CDU Opposition Party was quick to reject the SPD moves at the recent national CDU party conference. He supported the existing practice and there is thus little likelihood that the SPD proposals will be accepted and implemented by any of the CDU-governed Länder, which are in the majority.

David Jobbins examines the upsurge of interest in Britain's 'living libraries' of plants

and their mellow walls, Britain's botanical gardens seem a perfect haven of academic immutability. In the quiet order of their systematic and ordered plant collections, they are a refuge from the chaos of the modern world.

The upsurge of interest in plant gardens and ecology has led to new collections and research projects. The task of the gardens are facing new challenges. They still have to function as a living library where students and the public can see the plants they are studying. They also devote space to research projects in a range of subjects which is getting wider all the time.

These different tasks are undertaken by Cambridge University's Botanic Garden, which was founded in 1760 but moved to its present site in 1859. Under its director, Dr Max Walters, the garden has been at the head of the rapidly developing interest in conservation and ecology. Dr Walters, and the experiment of Oxford's botanic garden, Mr Ken Burrows, both argue that the preservation of the old plant habitats is the only way to develop a scientific approach to the study of plants.

Dr Walters regards it very much as a duty for which all else falls. He wants to widen the scope of the garden's educational role to include sixth-form students much more closely in the work at Cambridge. The site was acquired in 1859. About half was laid out during the mid-19th century under Charles Darwin's mentor, John Stevens Henslow, who was Professor of Botany from 1825 to 1860. Development of the garden half began after the Second World War, thanks to a large bequest.

The 19th century garden has a comprehensive reference collection of trees, and orderly beds of many herbaceous plants. These are arranged according to the Angler system and about 30 families are represented, arranged to illustrate diversity within each family rather than within each genus.

A large rock garden is laid out in a geographical format, and nearby are special collections of tulips, carnations, and European exotics.

In the 20th century garden there are two environmental sections on new to the public.

The main types of British limestone in an artificial mound show typical wild plants of the region in their natural setting. Nearby is a reconstruction of a Fenland habitat, which is now much in need of renewal and reorganization after 14 years of useful life.

But the main conservation work is represented by a collection of rare, mainly East Anglian, flowering plants and ferns. This stemmed from a research project and is continuing under a contract with the Nature Conservancy Council.

It occupies a permanent site in the garden's research area, which is not open to the public. The idea is to hold stocks under controlled conditions to reduce or eliminate the risk of cross-pollination leading to a genetic deviation from the wild plant. Among the rarities are the speckled speedwell, Cheddar pink, and a thriving colony of another plant now thought to be extinct in the wild.

Cambridge holds stocks of about 70 of eastern English plants, most of them endangered plants, along with another 50 or so rare specimens from elsewhere in the United Kingdom. They are an insurance against the extinction of wild colonies, always a real possibility. They also protect wild colonies from further degradation by giving the growing army of plant photographers an opportunity to see the plants without risk to their subjects, and by providing a source of material for bona fide research students.

Dr Walters regards the activities of some plant photographers in the wild as particularly risky. They may

cut a path to the colony, and damage non-flowering specimens of the very plant they wish to photograph. In their efforts to capture one bloom, above all farmers can be annoyed by trespassing to the extent they will plough in the rarest plants to end it.

The collection's education role may soon be extended if plans for a public display of the rare plants go ahead. This will enable the public to see live specimens of Britain's 21 legally-protected plants in the flesh.

A number of displays at Cambridge are destined to be of interest to the ordinary gardener. There are collections of plants and shrubs arranged in threes to show how a hybrid derives from its parents. There is also a chronological bed showing the approximate sequence of introduction of familiar plants into the United Kingdom.

The variations produced by different climatic conditions on Juniper plants are also demonstrated. The ground-hugging forms from the exposed western coast of the British Isles contrasting with the upright bushes of the more sheltered parts of the country.

Dr Walters has attempted to get away from the almost Victorian approach of collecting vast numbers of plants, which inevitably leads to cluttered displays of limited educational value.

At Cambridge the aim is to reduce the clutter in favour of carefully arranged collections better suited to getting the idea across. But it can still be a little bewildering, simply because of its size, although guides directed at sixth-form level are in preparation.

By contrast, the Chelsea Physic Garden must be one of Britain's smallest gardens, stretching to only about four acres. Founded in 1673 it is the second oldest in the country, 50 years younger than Oxford but 100 older than the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew.

Its collection of 5,000 plant species nestles behind high walls only a few yards from the Chelsea embankment and only two and a half miles from Piccadilly Circus. Among the trees collected is what is believed to be the largest olive tree in the United Kingdom, possibly planted in the eighteenth century.

One of the important names from its past is Philip Miller, of Gardener's Dictionary fame, who was appointed Gardener at Sir Hans Sloane's suggestion in 1722. Under his care, Chelsea, leased to the Apothecaries' Society, became the most important botanical garden in the western world. But 100 years later the garden was in difficulties, and the apothecaries were unwilling to continue to foot the bill.

Closure was only averted when a trust was set up around the turn of this century.

The objects of the trust, broadly similar in outline to the guidelines governing most botanic gardens,

are to provide general education, scientific instruction and research in botany, and in the pharmacology of medicinal plants.

The British Museum and a number of London University colleges, including Imperial, maintain research projects at Chelsea. The British Museum is experimenting with ferns and their allies to throw light on the evolution of the genus. Work on other plant forms is related to the link between cytology and evolution.

For 20 years Imperial College has been systematically investigating ergot, the potentially dangerous product of a fungal growth on cereals. Chelsea is ideal for this work, as it is miles from the nearest cereal growing area and plants can be inoculated with the fungus without fear of disastrous consequences. The alkaloid produced is analysed in an effort to improve ways of synthesizing alternatives. The drug produced from ergot is used medically in child-birth and treating the symptoms of migraine.

Chelsea is also a site for monitoring air-borne pollutants, including the heavy metals which are a continuing hazard to animal and plant health.

The library is another feature of importance to students, possessing an important collection of early herbals and other source works. Access to the garden is strictly limited to bona fide research students and research workers, except on 10 open days each year.

The garden's role in providing generations of plant material for research was considerable for the first 70 years of this century. The new beginning under the trust coincided nearly with the first wave of polytechnics geared to the expansion of continuing education for London's workers.

But with the exception of research, this flow of work has dwindled to a trickle. Teaching is now largely based on audio-visual techniques, obviating the need for vast amounts of plant material, and the tendency is no longer for students to be taught about whole plants. The expansion of the 1960s encouraged universities and colleges to set up their own field centres where research and teaching could be carried out more efficiently.

Now the role Chelsea is to play is likely to undergo far-reaching changes, although curator Mr Allen Patterson says that some of the objects of the trust are still likely to be adhered to.

The developments at Kew have had an inevitable effect. "A traditional botanic garden in the centre of London is not easily justified, and alternatives are being intensely considered," Mr Patterson said. "It is illogical to keep this one up with charitable funds if it duplicates what is available at Kew, perhaps less well. The garden is in the process of some sort of change, and is hoped it will go forward into its fourth century in a constructive fashion."

Although he firmly rejects any idea that Chelsea might be turned into a public pleasure garden, Mr Patterson is not prepared to say at this stage what plans there are. However, he says they could be "exciting".

The garden will continue in a way which would be recognizable to Miller. But the fact that this is done a certain thing over the past 75 years under the aegis of a charity does not mean they must keep pumping money into it in exactly the same way.

Revolutionary change may be a disappointment to Mr Patterson's colleagues at other gardens. There is a tendency to regard it as a quiet survivor, a living museum of the way plants were studied in bygone centuries. But Mr Patterson and his trust have to operate within a tight economic discipline unsoftened by university-style financial security, and the changes are therefore inevitable.

Oxford, the oldest botanic garden in the country, shares with Chelsea related site. Isolated from the noise and bustle of the High Street by a thick stone wall, it originally



Britain's largest olive tree in the Chelsea Physic Garden

covered only five acres but a further three were leased from Christ Church in 1944.

The director at Cambridge, Dr Walters, comments: "We always say that Oxford has the history but we have the space."

History there certainly is. The original garden was constructed on what was once Oxford's Jewish cemetery leased from Magdalen College in 1621. It, like so many others, was originally a physic garden for the cultivation of medicinal plants. It was not until shortly after the arrival of Charles Darwin as professor of botany in 1834 that its name was changed to comply more accurately with the role he intended it should play.

Professor Daubeny built a laboratory, reconstructed the glasshouses for the third time since their beginnings in 1670, installed pools and fountains, and planted some of the garden's finest trees.

He also laid out plots to test the mineral requirements of crops—the first experiments with chemical fertilizers in Britain. A firm supporter of the theory of evolution, he rearranged the garden's collection of herbaceous plants in order of kinship and descent.

At Oxford, as at Chelsea, the rectangular rows of systematic beds are now laid out according to the Bonham and Hooker classification. There are also four collections of plants of economic value—culinary herbs, medicinal herbs, dye and fibre plants, and crops.

When the School of Botany left the garden buildings in the early 1950s, under Professor C. D. Darlington, a one-acre garden was established to show the processes by which evolution occurs in flowering plants.

But his collection of some 400 plants with variegated leaves due to heredity, mutation or viral infection remains in the main garden, an attractive display in itself which is left on the shelf ready for a revival of scientific interest.

Oxford continues the tradition of exotic plant collection more firmly than Cambridge. Its superintendent Mr Burrows was a member of an expedition earlier this year to Guyana's Lost World area of Guyana which brought back some unusual and interesting specimens of a flora which is now as threatened as any in the United Kingdom.

Mr Burrows estimates that some 20,000 species are represented in the garden. A difficulty shared with Cambridge is the alkaline nature of the soil, due to Oxford to the water from the River Cherwell which runs along one side of the garden. This makes cultivation of plants requiring an acid soil a headache.

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Site switch is a good French farce

from Guy Neave

PARIS
The shifting of the University of Paris VIII Vincennes to its new site at St Denis, to the north of the city, has got under way amid scenes in the best traditions of farce. As from the next academic year, the Minister of Higher Education, Mme. Alice Saunier-Seïté has decided that Vincennes will take over the six-acre site on the Rue de la Liberté. At present, it is occupied by the University Institute of Technology (IUT).

Confusion is worse confounded by the fact of there being two university institutes of Technology in St Denis. There is another in the Square of May 8, 1945. This has merely complicated the logistics of the whole operation.

The plan involves moving the impediments of the IUT at the Rue de la Liberté on to the site at the Square of May 8, 1945. Only then will the University of Vincennes, with its nominal 30,000 students, move in.

As with the best laid plans of ministers and mice, so with Vincennes. Opposition from the dentists of St Denis, always considerable, has reached new heights. And when the time for which French administration is well known, the Ministry of Higher Education dispatched several hundred police to surround the site.

The consequences were totally and utterly foreseeable: a massive sit-in by the staff of the evicted, vociferously supported by faculty members of the University of Vincennes, including the university's president Pierre Morlin.

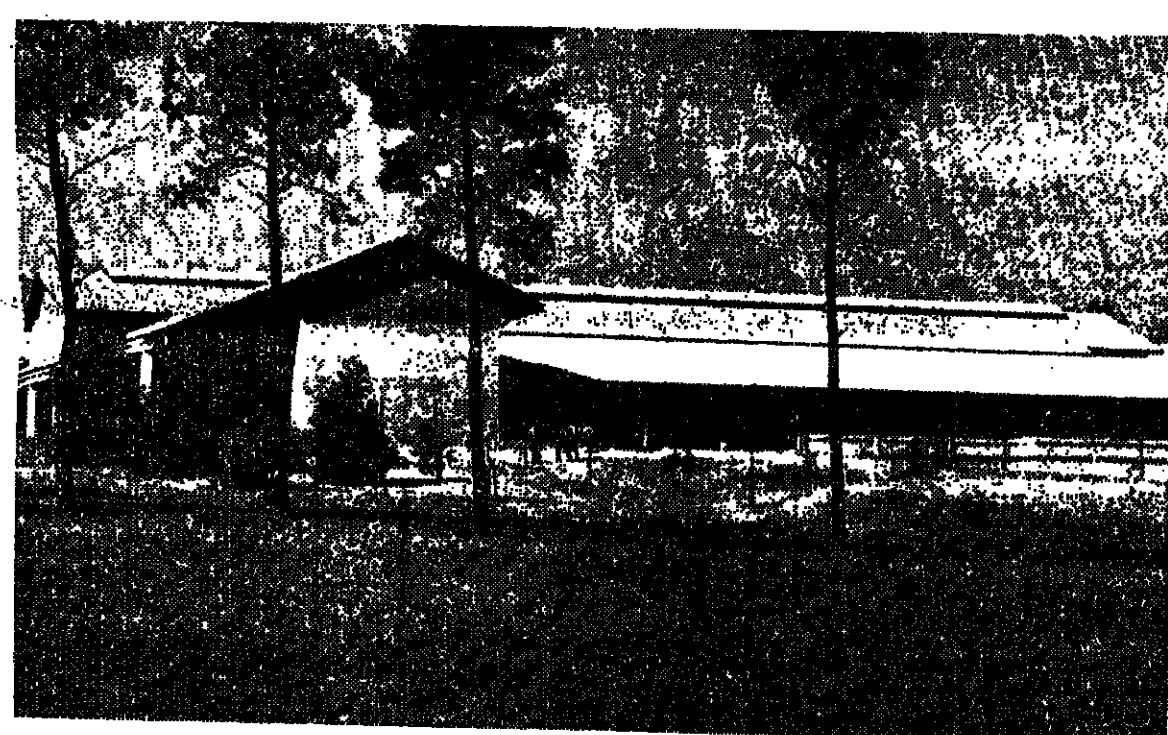
To cap it all, the site of the Rue de la Liberté is exquisitely ill-chosen. It is too small for the student population of Vincennes, who have an unenviable image among the local population.

Staff at Vincennes also see the move as part of a barely-disguised manoeuvre to start the dismantling of the university.

Moreover, the University of Paris XIII Vincennes has long cast envious eyes on the Rue de la Liberté as a means of relieving its own vastly overcrowded conditions. Despite offers from other municipalities to house Vincennes, the Ministry has decided that there is no possibility of reconsidering the move. Both Pierre Morlin, and his counterpart at Vincennes, Marcel Josefowicz, attempted to take out injunctions against the minister.

Nor have attempts by the faculty at Vincennes to remonstrate with the minister been any more successful. A delegation sent to meet Mme Saunier-Seïté at the ministry was met with armed ranks of riot police with clubs and shields.

Canberra looks at intake and studies



Murdoch University: also following the intake trend.

from Robert Milliken

MELBOURNE
While most Australian universities are still in a state of shock over the sudden halt that has been ordered to their growth, one of them—the Australian National University in Canberra—has begun to find out what sort of conditions it will have to cope with in future.

The ANU, one of Australia's most prestigious universities, has embarked on a long-term study of its students' progress and performance by two senior researchers, Mr Geoff. Mortimore and Dr David Bennett.

They have found that fewer students are going to the university direct from school, and more students are studying part-time, than even more part-time students are going to Canberra's college of advanced education, and that the demand for non-degree courses at the ANU is rising dramatically.

Moreover, the steady increase in the university's undergraduate population over the past five years has been due largely to more women coming in. Women have also formed the biggest component of the increased number of mature age students—aged over 23—who are taking the place of the declining number of school leavers.

From all reports these trends are being repeated at most of Australia's 18 other universities. At two of the country's newer universities, Murdoch in Western Australia and Macquarie in Sydney, almost half

the student populations are aged over 23, and both universities plan to keep it that way.

But the ANU appears to be the only institution which is actively using the information it has gathered as the basis to plan for a no-growth future.

"It is quite clear that school leavers are not as interested in university study as in the past," says Mr Mortimore. "There is more of a cost-benefit attitude now."

"Many either take the first job part-time, or they go to the more vocationally oriented colleges of advanced education instead. It means mature age students and their needs will get a lot of attention in future."

Specifically, the proportion of ANU students aged under 19 fell from 74 per cent in 1974 to 57 per cent in 1978. Students at the university aged between 20 and 29 increased from 27 per cent in 1974 to 43 per cent this year.

And whereas in 1973 the ANU had about 500 more part-time students than the college of advanced education in the same city, this position has now reversed in double the time, the Canberra college of advanced education has about 1,000 more part-time students than the ANU.

Mortimore and Bennett acknowledge that there is a danger of perhaps reading too much into these figures. But they do appear

to confirm a pattern to which Australian universities are only just waking up—that with economic recession now a way of life, more young people would have gone to university five years ago are now choosing non-university courses which they hope will give them a more direct entry to a job.

This year, many universities in Australia are reporting sharp drops in enrolments in arts, science, commerce, engineering and architecture, all areas not directly related to job prospects or where unemployment is high.

Enrolments at La Trobe University in Melbourne, for instance, where there is a strong emphasis on humanities and social sciences, were down about 500 this year, about 7 per cent.

Potentially this is disastrous for the universities because their individual budgets are distributed by the federal government's advisory body, the Tertiary Education Commission, according to their enrolment levels.

The government is encouraging a new kind of credentialism that took place in Australia in the 1960s and early 1970s. It wants to steer most of the students expected over the next three years into the technical and further education sector (TAFE), and has provided for a 20 per cent budget each year in the TAFE

legislation. The universities and colleges will have, effectively, zero increase.



The baroque-style Changeling

Nelson

R. D. Martin

Universities continued

BRISTOL

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Department of

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University, Bristol

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January 1979.

Further details

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forms may be

obtained from

the Department

of Physics, Bristol

University, Bristol

AV8 7ST.

The closing

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15th November

1978.

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University, Bristol

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The successful

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DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Applications are invited

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the development

of a research

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the field of

Physics. The

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Polytechnics continued

Leicester Polytechnic

School of Technology and Construction
School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering

Principal Lecturer in Communication Engineering

(Post No. 409)
Candidates should have teaching, research and/or industrial experience at professional level in some area of Communication Engineering. (A higher degree advantageous.) The person appointed will be required to contribute to the general teaching work of the School, particularly in project work for the degree in Electronic Engineering. He/she will be expected to develop research in his/her own specialism.

Salary: £7,047.52 p.a. (bar) £8,844 p.a.
Further details and application form from: Staffing Officer, Leicester Polytechnic, P.O. Box 143, Leicester LE1 9BH. Tel. (0533) 60161 Ext. 2301 or 2303.

PORTSMOUTH THE POLYTECHNIC

HEAD OF SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES

Candidates should be graduates and have appropriate qualifications, considerable management experience and the ability to develop management education to meet the needs of employers and independent students.
Salary in accordance with the Portsmouth F.F. Report, Grade V, £9,843 in 1980 p.a.
Further details and application form from the Staff Officer, Portsmouth Polytechnic, Alverstoke, Portsmouth PO1 2QY, to whom completed applications should be returned by 27th November, 1978, quoting Ref. L22.

LONDON, S.E.1

POLYTECHNIC OF THE SOUTH BANK

DEPARTMENT OF HOME ECONOMICS

LECTURER II IN SCIENCE (Ref. H.E.A.)

This is a temporary appointment for a period of two years, renewable for a further two years. The holder will be required to teach and supervise students in the Department of Home Economics, and to contribute to the general teaching work of the Department.

Further details and application form from the Staffing Officer, Polytechnic of the South Bank, 100 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel. 01-4752 1000.

MANCHESTER

THE POLYTECHNIC

HOLMES FACULTY

DEPARTMENT OF HOTEL, CATERING AND INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT

LECTURER I IN HOTEL AND CATERING ADMINISTRATION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for the post of Lecturer I in Hotel and Catering Administration. The holder will be responsible for the teaching of students in the Department of Hotel, Catering and Institutional Management.

Further details and application form from the Staffing Officer, Manchester Polytechnic, 100 Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL. Tel. 061-275 1000.

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HAMPSHIRE

SOUTHAMPTON COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for the following posts:

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTANCY AND ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES Grade V

To be responsible for the professional accountancy courses, BEC Financial Sector courses and related work within public authority administration.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES Grade V

To be responsible for BEC Higher Award and other general business courses, together with a wide range of management studies work.

Application forms and further details from the Principal, Southampton College of Higher Education, East Park Terrace, Southampton SO9 4WW (please include stamped addressed A4 envelope) to whom they should be returned within 14 days of the appearance of this advertisement.

COUNTY OF SOUTH GLAMORGAN Institute of Higher Education

FACULTY OF ART AND DESIGN DEAN

Salary: £8,643-£9,803
Applications for the above post are invited from distinguished artists or designers who have demonstrated ability in academic administration.
Duties to commence as soon as possible after 1 January 1979.
Further information and application forms may be obtained from the Deputy Principal, South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education, Western Avenue, Llandfall, Cardiff CF5 2YB, to whom they should be returned within 10 days of the appearance of this advertisement.
F. J. Adams, Director of Education, Education Offices, Kingsway, Cardiff.

NOTTINGHAM

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

The College invites applications for two teaching posts to be taken up at a time in 1979 to be filled by 15th September. Candidates should have a degree in a relevant subject and a minimum of two years' experience in teaching. Applications should be sent to the Principal, St. John's College, Nottingham, to whom they should be returned by 15th September 1978.

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SURREY

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

GUARDIAN COUNTY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

MANAGEMENT LECTURER

Required to teach Management Subjects on qualification courses in the final stages of the three-year programme. This would also include liaison with the management development programmes.

Salary: £7,047.52 p.a. (bar) £8,844 p.a.
Further details and application form from: Staffing Officer, Leicester Polytechnic, P.O. Box 143, Leicester LE1 9BH. Tel. (0533) 60161 Ext. 2301 or 2303.

LONDON

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Don's diary

The author is head of the education department and chairman of the board of social science at the university of Keele.

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